

July 7, 1936

Dr. W. E. Dove,
1010 Travis Building,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Dr. Dove:

We transmit herewith one copy of a report by Mr. H. O. Schroeder, of our Ames, Iowa laboratory, on the investigation which he made recently of the reported screwworm occurrence in Illinois. This is for your information and files.

Yours very truly,

F. C. Bishopp,
Principal Entomologist, in Charge,
Insects Affecting Man and Animals.

FCB/hw

Enclosure.

cc: Mr. L. A. Strong
Dr. E. W. Laake ✓
Mr. D. C. Parman
Mr. E. F. Knipling

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F. C. Bishop,
Principal Entomologist, in Charge,
Insects Affecting Man and Animals.

FCB:jw

Enclosure.

cc: Mr. L. A. Strong
Dr. E. W. Laska
Mr. D. C. Farnham
Mr. E. F. Knippling

A Report On the Cases of Myiasis Occurring in Western Illinois in May
and June of 1936

By

H. O. Schroeder

On June 24 the writer arrived at Pittsfield, Illinois to investigate cases of myiasis reported as screw worms by County Farm Adviser W. B. Bunn of Pike County. This county had at least 2000 authentic cases of screw worm in the summer and fall of 1934 according to W. J. Spicer, Bish. Doc. # 4365.

The cases reported to Mr. Bunn's office comprised infestations on three farms and involved 12 sheep and one sow which were treated by a veterinarian May 26 and 8 castrated pigs treated with benzol on June 16. These cases occurred in the eastern portion of Pike County near Valley City and Griggsville respectively.

In addition data on three cases was obtained which occurred in and near Barry in the northwestern portion of the county. These occurred in a wire cut of a young colt, a dehorned cow, and in the shoulder of a sow. The dates of occurrence were May 1, May 15, and June 15.

On June 25 and 26 a thorough scouting in the vicinity of the above cases failed to reveal any active cases, consequently no specimens were collected with which to establish the identity of the fly producing the cases of myiasis. No specimens had been saved from infested wounds at the time of treatment. It is therefore difficult to determine conclusively whether screw worms were actually involved in the infestations.

Dr. John Danials who treated the docked tails of the twelve lambs is certain that his diagnosis of myiasis by screw worms is correct. Dr.

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Daniels treated between 400 and 500 cases last year. This experience should be of value to him in making a correct diagnosis. He stated that all of the larvae were in the wounds of the tail, none being seen in the wool of the buttocks. His description of adult flies near a sow with an infested wound on the snout agreed very well with the appearance of the adult screw worm fly.

All the other cases were treated by the owners of the infested stock without the aid of a veterinarian. All of them however had considerable experience with screw worms in 1935 and appeared to be able to distinguish between screw worms and maggots of other species. Three of the four seemed quite positive that they were dealing with screw worm. However, most of them had little experience with myiasis of any kind prior to 1935.

Considering the very early date of occurrence of most of the cases and the fact that no trace of active cases occurring since June 16 could be found, one is inclined to doubt that the cases reported were really caused by Cochliomyia americana.

Inquiries were also made in Sangamon, Scott, and Morgan Counties where the outbreak was heaviest last year. These counties were scouted on June 27 and 29, but as far as could be learned no cases of screw worm had occurred up to those dates. Dr. A. E. Dickerson, Assistant State Veterinarian, of Springfield reported only one case of maggots in the buttocks of a sheep which were undoubtedly not screw worms.

A considerable number of cattle are shipped into Western Illinois every year from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas and, as was shown last year, screw worms can be introduced and spread in such movements of stock.

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Considering the very early date of occurrence of most of the cases and the fact that no trace of active cases occurring since June 10 could be found, one is inclined to doubt that the cases reported were really caused by Gophilomyia americana.

Inquiries were also made in Sangamon, Scott, and Morgan Counties where the outbreak was heaviest last year. These counties were located on June 27 and 29, but as far as could be learned no cases of screw worm had occurred up to those dates. Dr. A. E. Dickerson, Assistant State Veterinarian, of Springfield reported only one case of maggots in the buttocks of a sheep which were undoubtedly not screw worms.

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On May 4, 1936 Harvey Newman, a farmer and stockman, received a carload of white face heifers from a ranch at Ashland, Kansas. These heifers were dehorned and branded before shipment. The car was routed through Wichita and Kansas City. On arrival the heads and brand wounds of some of the animals were still bleeding, possibly due to crowding in the car. These animals were loaded about May 2 and were in a condition suitable for fly attack along the entire route. Some of the animals required treatment two weeks after arrival to induce proper healing. However at no time was there any evidence of the presence of fly larva in the wounds. The infested sheep treated on May 25 were located on this farm and the pigs treated June 16 were located about 7 miles away. The possibility of these heifers having arrived infested with Cochliomyia americana seems to be very remote not only because no worms were noticed in the wounds but also because at the time of shipment screw worms had not been reported from Northern Texas, Oklahoma, or Kansas.

Mr. J. W. Suddeth, a stockman near Loami, Illinois, in whose stock screw worm occurred as early as the later part of June has again received several shipments of cattle from the Southwest, but up to June 29 no screw worms had made their appearance in any of his stock.

Mr. Owen Fitch, Manager of the Barry Sale Barn, states that there has been no indication of myiasis in any of the stock handled by his firm up to June 26. Barry was the focal point of one of the severe outbreaks last year.

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Mr. J. W. Suddeth, a stockman near Loomis, Illinois, in whose stock screw worm occurred as early as the latter part of June has again received several shipments of cattle from the southwest, but up to June 29 no screw worms had made their appearance in any of his stock.

Mr. Owen Fitch, Manager of the Barry Sale Barn, states that there has been no indication of myiasis in any of the stock handled by his firm up to June 26. Barry was the focal point of one of the severe outbreaks last year.

On Sunday June 28 Mr. W. S. Yeomans of the Control Division arrived at Pittsfield, Illinois from San Antonio with three assistants. The writer met Mr. Yeomans the following day. After considering the data obtained previous to his arrival he was inclined to believe that C. americana was not the cause of the cases of myiasis reported. He considered additional scouting in Pike, Scott, Morgan, and Sangamon Counties unnecessary at this time and proposed to contact county farm advisers in the surrounding counties which were infested last year mainly to inform them that the Division of Control was prepared to assist in educational and control work in the event such action became necessary.

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